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Intermountain Region

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Intermountain Region News Release

CONCESSION CONTRACT AWARDED FOR BOATING SHUTTLE SERVICE ON JENNY LAKE

Denver -- National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director Karen Wade announced that, in a competitive bidding process, Doug Colonel was selected to operate the boat shuttle service on Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park, replacing Teton Boating Company, the previous operator.

Doug Colonel and his son Colby, own and operate Solitude Float Trips. They have been offering Snake River float trips to park visitors since 1998 under a concessions contract. The Colonels have demonstrated a commitment to the National Park Service and its mission by offering strong interpretive and educational programs and by constantly working to improve visitor services. They have established an excellent reputation as local business owners and show a deep appreciation for Grand Teton and its resources.


"We are pleased with the selection," said Assistant Superintendent Steve Iobst. "Doug Colonel and Solitude Float Trips are dedicated to providing safe, enjoyable and informative float trips for visitors and we are confident that Mr. Colonel will use his experience and knowledge to offer the highest quality services possible to park visitors using the Jenny Lake boat shuttle," Iobst said.

Teton Boating Company, the previous concessioner, has provided boat shuttle services and scenic boat tours on Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park since the 1950's. Mann and Viola McCain and Vaden Rock purchased the company from Ken Reimers in 1951. Rock was bought out by the McCain family in 1958 and the business has remained within the McCain family ever since.

"Teton Boating Company and the McCain family have been an important part of Grand Teton for decades, and we want to thank them for their years of service to the park and for providing vital services to visitors," Iobst said.

The National Park Service issued a prospectus on October 10, 2001 under the new National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-391). The Intermountain Regional Office in Denver, Colorado received three offers for the boat shuttle business which grosses approximately \$500,000 annually and shuttles an average of 87,000 visitors across Jenny Lake each summer. The 5-year contract also authorizes boat rental and scenic boat tours on Jenny Lake.

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The new law was designed to bring more competition to the concessions contracting process. A panel of concessions management technical experts evaluated offers, applying CFR 36 Part 51 regulations in rating each offer on the merits of the proposal under the applicable selection factors and in comparison to the other proposals received.

Grand Teton National Park was established to protect spectacular scenic values, as characterized by the geologic features of the Teton Range and Jackson Hole, and the native plant and animal life. The original Grand Teton National Park (about 96,000 acres) was established by Congress on February 26, 1929, (45 Stat., 1314). The park was enlarged to its present size by Congress on September 14, 1950, (Public law 81-787, 64 Stat. 849; 16 U.S.C.406) "for the purpose of including in one national park, for public benefit and enjoyment, the lands within the present Grand Teton National Park and a portion of the lands within the Jackson Hole National Monument." Grand Teton National Park consists of 310,520.94 acres in Teton County, Wyoming and is bordered by two national forests and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.

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